

March 15, 2002

The Honorable Larry D. Thompson  
Deputy Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Deputy Attorney General:

I write concerning the Justice Department's recent obstruction of justice indictment of Arthur Anderson, LLP. While I certainly applaud the Department's action in this matter, I am concerned that the Department is not similarly pursuing Enron and its executives for their allegedly fraudulent activities and apparent obstruction with the same vigor.

I wholeheartedly agree with the Department that Anderson's alleged shredding of documents represents, if true, a stunning disregard for our system of justice and a startling example of corporate irresponsibility. However, the indictment you issued yesterday states that "[a]fter spending Monday, October 22, 2001 at Enron," Anderson partners ordered the shredding of documents. *United States of America v. Arthur Andersen, LLP*, Indictment, United States District Court Southern District of Texas, CRH-02-121, March 7, 2002. The indictment itself, therefore, appears to imply that the documents were shredded at the behest of high-ranking Enron officials. Yet, these same officials are not similarly charged with obstruction of justice.

I have long been concerned about your conflicts of interest, given your former law firm's close ties to Enron and Enron's financial largess and easy access to high ranking Administration officials, as President Bush's largest contributor. Given that these ties could lead to the appearance that you are less than eager to vigorously prosecute Enron and any Administration officials implicated in this scandal, I have repeatedly asked you to appoint a special counsel. The apparent disregard of Enron in this indictment only gives me further pause about your impartiality in this matter. I, therefore, ask you to reconsider your decision not to appoint a special counsel in this matter.

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I think we both agree that in order for the American people to have faith in the outcome of these high profile cases, the credibility, impartiality and integrity of investigators must be beyond reproach. The public deserves no less. I appreciate your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary